

March 11, 2009

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Steve Berman, Gilbert, Chair

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 18, 2009
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 N. First Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee is scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by videoconference, or by telephone conference call. As was discussed at the first meeting of the Committee, proxies would not be allowed. Members who are not able to attend the meeting are encouraged to submit their comments in writing, so that their view would always be a part of the process.

For those attending in person, please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Valerie Day at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Refreshments and a light snack will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

c: MAG Regional Council
MAG Management Committee

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
March 18, 2009**

		<u>COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED</u>
1.	<u>Call to Order</u>	
2.	<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	
3.	<u>Call to the Audience</u> An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Transportation Policy Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Transportation Policy Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.	3. Information.
4.	<u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u> Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk (*).	4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*

*4A.	<u>Approval of the February 18, 2009, Meeting Minutes</u>	4A. Review and approval of the February 18, 2009, meeting minutes.
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ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5A.	<u>ADOT Portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds</u> On February 18, 2009, staff reported to the Transportation Policy Committee that MAG	5A. Information, discussion, and possible action.
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expected to receive approximately \$99 to \$188 million of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Staff noted that the State Transportation Board would be considering the MAG allocation at its meeting on February 20, 2009. The State Transportation Board allocated \$129.4 million to the MAG region. On February 25, 2009, the Regional Council approved a ranked list of projects cooperatively developed with ADOT for the ADOT portion of the ARRA funds totaling approximately \$194 million. The Regional Council also approved having the Chair of the Regional Council send a letter to the State Transportation Board forwarding the projects and also to send a letter to the Senate and House leadership requesting assistance in MAG receiving an equitable share of the ADOT portion of the ARRA funds. On March 3, 2009, the State Transportation Board heard testimony regarding the allocation of the ADOT portion of the ARRA funds. Following the testimony, the Board went into executive session and upon returning announced they had reaffirmed their decision made on February 20, 2009, to provide the MAG region 37 percent of the funds. It was noted that this was a unanimous decision. The Board then considered projects for the ADOT portion of the ARRA funds. This item was on the March 11, 2009, Management Committee agenda. No action was taken. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5B. MAG Sub-Allocation Portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds Project and Allocation Scenarios

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) legislation sub-allocates 30 percent of the funding (\$156.57 million) to local jurisdictions. The amount being sub-allocated to MAG has not been officially transmitted yet by the Arizona Department of Transportation, however, MAG staff believes approximately \$104.6 million would be allocated directly to the MAG region. Metropolitan Planning Organizations have one year to obligate the funds. The Transportation

5B. Recommend approval of Scenario #1, Option A, with a Minimum Agency Allocation of \$500,000 plus population dated March 10, 2009, for the distribution of the MAG Sub-Allocation Portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds in accordance with the following: 1. Establish a deadline of April 3, 2009, to have MAG member agencies define and submit projects to MAG for the sub-allocated funds due to the very limited time to obligate the projects. 2. Have MAG prepare the necessary administrative adjustments/amendments to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and or Regional Transportation Plan as appropriate. 3.

Policy Committee met on February 18, 2009, and requested a set of scenarios to fund projects for the MAG sub-allocated portion of the ARRA funds. These scenarios were presented and discussed at the MAG Transportation Review Committee meeting on February 26, 2009. The five scenarios are attached for your review. On March 11, 2009, the Management Committee recommended approval of Scenario #1, Option A, with a Minimum Agency Allocation of \$500,000 plus population dated March 10, 2009, for the distribution of the MAG Sub-Allocation Portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds in accordance with the following: 1. Establish a deadline of April 3, 2009, to have MAG member agencies define and submit projects to MAG for the sub-allocated funds due to the very limited time to obligate the projects. 2. Have MAG prepare the necessary administrative adjustments/amendments to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and or Regional Transportation Plan as appropriate. 3. Have MAG conduct the air quality consultation/conformity if necessary. 4. Establish a deadline of November 30, 2009, for projects to be obligated. Funds from projects that are not obligated will be reprogrammed to meet the federal obligation date of February 17, 2010, in order for Arizona to be eligible to receive funding from other states that are unable to obligate their funds. Please refer to the enclosed material.

5C. MAG Regional Portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act -Transit

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) regional portion for transit is in the range of \$65 million to \$75 million. The legislation requires that 50 percent of the transit funds be obligated within 180 days. The Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) board met on February 19, 2009, and recommended project selection criteria. RPTA, MAG, and member agencies are working collaboratively in this analysis. A memorandum from RPTA explaining a draft ARRA transit scenario recommendation is attached. The Board is expected to meet on March 19, 2009, for further review and possible

Have MAG conduct the air quality consultation/conformity if necessary. 4. Establish a deadline of November 30, 2009 for projects to be obligated. Funds from projects that are not obligated will be reprogrammed to meet the federal obligation date of February 17, 2010 in order for Arizona to be eligible to receive funding from other states that are unable to obligate their funds.

5C. Information and discussion.

action. This item was on the March 11, 2009, Management Committee agenda for information and discussion. Please refer to the enclosed material.

6. Project Changes – Administrative Modification to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The components of the bill and policy implications are discussed in a separate agenda item. In response to the expedited time frames for transportation projects in the Act, and administratively modifying the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and, as appropriate, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2007 Update, may be necessary to move projects forward. The FY 2008-2012 TIP and RTP 2007 Update were originally approved by the MAG Regional Council on July 25, 2007. On February 25, 2009, the MAG Regional Council voted to approve a cooperatively developed list of MAG Region Highway - ADOT/State projects in priority order for the ADOT portion of the ARRA funds of 2009 and that the projects be forwarded to ADOT contingent upon projects finally selected receiving the necessary administrative adjustments and amendments to the MAG TIP and air quality conformity and consultation. The Arizona State Transportation Board met on March 3, 2009, to discuss highway projects for the use of funds allocated to the ARRA. The Board approved the MAG listing of projects for the ARRA funds. It was noted that discrepancies between the priorities submitted by MAG would be clarified before the next State Transportation Board meeting. The necessary administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for approximately \$129.4 million allocated by the Board is presented for consideration by the Transportation Policy Committee. On March 11, 2009, the Management Committee recommended approval of administrative

6. Recommend approval of administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program, as appropriate, to the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update, and material cost changes to the ADOT Program, for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 as shown in the attached table.

modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate, to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2007 Update for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Legislative Update

An update will be provided on legislative issues of interest.

7. Information, discussion and possible action.